

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 240219
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 H-01 PM-05 INR-07
SS-15 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/MA/IR:BLMURRAYNJW
APPROVED BY ACDA/MA:LFINCH
-----083851 061021Z /23 10
P 052306Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 240219

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PARM

SUBJECT: GAO REPORT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)

REF: MURRAY/TURRENTINE TELCON

MISSION PLEASE PASS RMIKULAK, CW DELEGATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ABSTRACT FROM GAO REPORT ENTITLED
"STOCKPILE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND AGENTS--BETTER
MANAGEMENT NEEDED"; REPORT FOLLOWS VIA CLASSIFIED POUCH.
COMMENTS ON ABSTRACT AND REPORT REQUESTED FOR WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 12.

BEGIN TEXT:

COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

STOCKPILE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND AGENTS--
BETTER MANAGEMENT NEEDED (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE) LCD-77-205
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 240219

DIGEST

THE UNITED STATES HAS A LARGE STOCKPILE OF LETHAL CHEM
ICAL MUNITIONS AND AGENTS TO DETER ANOTHER COUNTRY FROM
USING CHEMICAL WARFARE AND TO RETALIATE IF DETERRENCE FAILS.

THE STOCKPILE CONSISTS OF VARIOUS MUNITIONS AND BULK CONTAINERS FILLED WITH NERVE AGENTS AND MUSTARD GAS. THE MUNITIONS AND AGENTS COST ABOUT \$200 MILLION. THEY ARE STORED IN EIGHT CONTINENTAL U.S. AND TWO OVERSEAS LOCATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY MANAGES THE STOCKPILE.

GAO VISITED FIVE STORAGE SITES AND FOUND THAT IMPROVEMENTS WERE NEEDED IN INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE, STORAGE AND HANDLING, SAFETY AND SECURITY, AND DEMILITARIZATION (CHANGING THE MUNITIONS SO THEY CANNOT BE USED MILITARILY) AND DISPOSAL OF THE STOCKPILE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS HAVE TESTIFIED IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS THAT THE STOCKPILE IS DETERIORATING AND THAT MUCH OF IT IS UNSERVICEABLE. THEY SAID THAT THE STOCKPILE WAS INADEQUATE IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY; CONSEQUENTLY, THEY REQUESTED FUNDS TO PREPARE TO PRODUCE A NEW CHEMICAL MUNITION KNOWN AS A BINARY. (BINARIES CONSIST OF TWO RELATIVELY HARMLESS CHEMICAL COMPONENTS THAT DO NOT BECOME LETHAL UNTIL MIXED.)

THE TRUE CONDITION OF THE STOCKPILE IS UNKNOWN. ITS SERVICEABILITY MAY HAVE BEEN GREATLY UNDERSTATED. FOR EXAMPLE, MANY OF THE UNSERVICABLE CLASSIFICATIONS ARE A RESULT OF MINOR NONFUNCTIONAL DEFECTS, SUCH AS CONTAINER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 240219

RUST, WHICH DO NOT AFFECT USABILITY. ALSO, INSPECTION SAMPLES ARE NEITHER RANDOM NOR REPRESENTATIVE, BLOCK STORAGE HAMPERS ACCESS DURING INSPECTION, ENTIRE PRODUCTION LOTS ARE CLASSIFIED UNSERVICEABLE FOR A FEW DEFECTS, AND CHEMICAL AGENT TESTING RECENTLY HAS BEEN LIMITED.(SEE CH. 2.)

WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUE CONDITION OF THE STOCKPILE, DEFENSE AND THE CONGRESS CANNOT VALIDLY ASSESS THE OFFENSIVE CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITY. TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT THE STOCKPILE'S CONDITION, THE ARMY SHOULD:

--REVISE THE CLASSIFICATION AND REPORTING CRITERIA TO CLEARLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FUNCTIONAL AND NONFUNCTIONAL DEFECTS

--REQUIRE RANDOM SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND STORE MATERIAL SO IT WILL BE MOST ACCESSIBLE AND FACILITATE THIS SAMPLING.

--STOP CLASSIFYING ENTIRE PRODUCTION LOTS AS UNSERVICEABLE BECAUSE OF A FEW DEFECTS WHEN REPORTING ON THE STOCKPILE'S CONDITION.

--COMPLETE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE SPECIAL TESTING PROGRAM FOR DETERMINING THE LETHALITY OF THE CHEMICAL FILLER. (SEE CH. 2.)

LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO MAINTAIN THE STOCKPILE IN A SERVICEABLE CONDITION OR TO RESTORE THE UNSERVICEABLE PORTIONS. USING ANTICIPATED APPROVAL OF THE BINARY PROGRAM AS A REASON FOR NOT MAINTAINING THE STOCKPILE IS INCONSISTENT WITH SOUND MANAGEMENT. LACK OF MAINTENANCE COULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE U.S. RETALIATORY CAPABILITIES. (SEE CH. 3.)

IF THE STOCKPILE'S CONDITION IS AS POOR AS DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAY, THEY SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO COM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 240219

PLETE MAINTENANCE QUICKLY. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, UNSERVICEABILITY IS OVERSTATED, THE CONGRESS SHOULD BE TOLD SO; PERHAPS ONLY LIMITED MAINTENANCE WILL BE REQUIRED. THE ARMY SHOULD RESTORE THE PART OF THE STOCKPILE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND AGENTS THAT IS NECESSARY AND THEREAFTER CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE STOCKPILE IN A USABLE CONDITION.(SEE CH. 3.)

GAO DID ONLY LIMITED WORK ON THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE CHEMICAL STOCKPILE BECAUSE OF ARMY EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND CORRECT DEFICIENCIES IN THESE AREAS. ADDITIONALLY, PHYSICAL SECURITY STANDARDS FOR CHEMICAL MUNITIONS ARE BEING UPGRADED TO EQUAL THOSE REQUIRED FOR NUCLEAR MUNITIONS. THE ARMY STUDIES AND ACTIONS UNDERWAY OR PLANNED TO REVISE STANDARDS, UPGRADE SECURITY AND REDUCE SAFETY INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATE AN AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR GOOD CONTROLS OVER SAFETY AND SECURITY. (SEE (H. 4.)

THE ARMY HAS DEMILITARIZED AND DISPOSED OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF USABLE LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS, YET AT THE SAME TIME, IT HAS SAID THAT THE LETHAL CHEMICAL STOCKPILE IS INADEQUATE. ADDITIONALLY, THE ARMY HAS PREPARED A LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR EVENTUALLY DISPOSING OF THE ENTIRE EXISTING STOCKPILE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND AGENTS. THE ARMY HAS SPENT OVER \$640 MILLION TO \$870 MILLION MORE. (SEE CH. 5.)

THE ARMY SHOULD DETERMINE ITS OVERALL NEEDS BEFORE DEMILITARIZING AND DISPOSING OF ADDITIONAL USABLE STOCKS AND COMMITTING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO DISPOSING OF THE ENTIRE STOCKPILE. THE ARMY MAY BE PREMATURE IN BASING ITS LONG-RANGE PLANS ON THE PREMISE THAT THE ENTIRE CHEMICAL STOCKPILE WILL BE DISPOSSED OF. (SEE CH. 5.)
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 240219

THE ARMY SHOULD:

--DEFINE OVERALL STOCKPILE REQUIREMENTS.

--STOP DISPOSING OF USABLE STOCKS UNTIL STOCKPILE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN DEFINED.

--FORMULATE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM GUIDELINES FOR DEMILITARIZING AND DISPOSING OF THE STOCKPILE. (SEE CH. 5.)

IN COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AGREED GENERALLY WITH THE FINDINGS BUT NOT WITH SOME OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. (SEE APP.I.)

ITS DISAGREEMENT RELATED PRIMARILY TO GAO'S SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBING THE CONDITION OF THE STOCKPILE. DEFENSE FEELS THAT EXISTING CRITERIA ARE ADEQUATE. AO CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED. (SEE CH. 2.)

DEFENSE AGREED WITH OTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIONS, SUCH AS RESTORING AND MAINTAINING THE STOCKPILE IN A USABLE CONDITION, BUT INDICATED THAT LIMITED STAFFING AND FUNDING WOULD PREVENT QUICK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE CONGRESS MAY NOT AGREE WITH THE RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY DEFENSE GIVES TO THE STOCKPILE'S MAINTENANCE. GAO RECOMMENDS THAT DEFENSE AND THE CONGRESS ESTABLISH A JOINT POSITION ON THE READINESS LEVEL AT WHICH THE CHEMICAL STOCKPILE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. (SEE CH. 3;) END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE240219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BLMURRAYNJW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770364-0936
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771090/aaaacyqb.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5fedf236-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1022695
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAO REPORT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)
TAGS: PARM
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fedf236-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009